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## NEWS RELEASE

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January 31, 2003

### **Border Patrol Agents Seize 221 Pounds of Marijuana** *Two Loads Yesterday Afternoon and Evening*

Border Patrol Agents from the Yuma Sector intercepted two vehicles in the process of transporting illegal contraband yesterday. The first load of marijuana was discovered in the afternoon, the second in the late evening. The combined loads totaled 221 pounds and were valued at \$176,712.00.

At 1 p.m., agents working near Andrade, Calif., pulled over a 1998 Dodge Stratus that appeared to be in the process of alien smuggling. The agents determined one of the passengers was in the United States illegally. The agents detained the driver, a Mexican male, for suspicion of alien smuggling. The passenger, an undocumented female with an infant child, was taken into custody by the agents. A subsequent search of the vehicle utilizing a Border Patrol canine led to a discovery of 171 pounds of marijuana wrapped in cellophane bricks. The driver was arrested for transporting an illegal substance.

At 10:30 p.m., agents working on Highway 95 encountered a Dodge Intrepid passing through the Border Patrol Checkpoint. The agents questioned the driver, a resident alien from Mexico, and directed the vehicle to secondary for an inspection. A Border Patrol canine alerted on the vehicle, and a search led to the discovery of 32 cellophane-wrapped bundles of marijuana.

Custody of the marijuana, the vehicles, and two male subjects was transferred to the Drug Enforcement Administration for further investigation. The two marijuana seizures raised the total for Yuma Sector to 35 since the beginning of the new fiscal year (Oct. 1, 2002). The fiscal year seizures total \$2,926,061 in value.

~ USBP ~